

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 443

Honoring the life and legacy of Auxiliary Bishop Agustín Román.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 26, 2012

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MENENDEZ)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and legacy of Auxiliary Bishop Agustín
Román.

Whereas Agustín Román was appointed auxiliary bishop of
the Archdiocese of Miami, Florida in 1979, becoming the
first Cuban to be appointed bishop in the United States;

Whereas Agustín Román was expelled from Cuba in 1961 by
the regime of Fidel Castro, along with many other
Roman Catholic priests;

Whereas Agustín Román ministered in Chile for 4 years be-
fore coming to Miami, Florida in 1966, where he quickly
became a spiritual leader and advocate for the Cuban
community in Miami, as well as for many other immi-
grant communities, including Haitian refugees;

Whereas Agustín Román was fluent in Latin, English,
French, and Spanish, and served on the Bishops' Com-

mittee for Hispanic Affairs, worked as a hospital chaplain, and became episcopal vicar for the Spanish-speaking people of the Archdiocese of Miami;

Whereas Agustín Román was the son of humble Cuban peasants, which influenced his commitment to humility, tenacity, and unceasing devotion to his ministry in southern Florida;

Whereas Agustín Román was instrumental in the construction of the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity on Biscayne Bay, which serves as a monument to the patron saint of Cuba, the Virgin of Charity of Cobre, and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year;

Whereas in 1980 Agustín Román served as a mediator during the Mariel boatlift incident, helping more than 100,000 Cubans flee the island and safely resettle in the United States;

Whereas Agustín Román helped negotiate a peaceful resolution to the 1987 riots of Mariel prisoner uprisings in Federal prisons, earning him national recognition for his compassion, gentility, and humble spirit;

Whereas after his retirement at the age of 75, Agustín Román remained active at the Shrine of Our Lady Charity, greeting visitors and responding to letters from fellow Cuban exiles; and

Whereas Agustín Román passed away on Wednesday, April 11, 2012: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes and honors the life of Agustín

3 Román;

1 (2) recognizes and honors the spiritual leader-
2 ship of Agustín Román and his dedication to free-
3 dom and faith;

4 (3) offers heartfelt condolences to the family,
5 friends, and loved ones of Agustín Román; and

6 (4) in memory of Agustín Román, calls on the
7 United States to continue policies that promote re-
8 spect for the fundamental principles of religious
9 freedom, democracy, and human rights in Cuba, in
10 a manner consistent with the aspirations of the peo-
11 ple of Cuba.

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